United Nations A/54/586

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 1999
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 98

Sectoral policy questions

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Hussam Edin **A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled:

"Sectoral policy questions:

"(a) Indu ..ial development cooperation;

"(b) Business and development"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 31st, 32nd, 39th, 42nd and 46th to 48th meetings, on 3, 4, 12 and 18 November and 3, 7 and 9 December 1999. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.31, 32, 39, 42 and 46-48). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 6 to 8 October (see A/C.2/54/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 98
Sectoral policy questions

Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063)

99-38506 (E) 161299

Letter dated 4 November 1999 from the representatives of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/535)

(a) Industrial development cooperation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002) (A/54/320)

(b) Business and development

Report of the Secretary-General on business and development (A/54/451)

4. At the 31st meeting, on 3 November, introductory statements were made by the Special Representative and Assistant Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, under sub-item (a); and the Director of the Division for Public Economics and Public Administration of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, under sub-item (b) (see A/C.2/54/SR.31).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.27 and A/C.2/54/L.64

5. At the 39th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa" (A/C.2/54/L.27), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, the International Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and its resolution 53/177 of 15 December 1998 on industrial development cooperation,

"*Taking note* of the declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 at their twenty-third annual meeting, held in New York on 24 September 1999,

"*Taking note also* of the Declaration on Africa's Industrialization, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-third ordinary session, held at Harare, from 2 to 4 June 1997, the Plan of Action for the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its thirteenth meeting, held at Accra in May 1997, the final communiqué of the first meeting of the Patrons Group of Heads of State and Government of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, adopted at Algiers on 13 July 1999, and the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa, held at Dakar, on 20 and 21 October 1999,

"*Recalling* the statement of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade to the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Algiers in September 1999, and resolution 2 (XIV) of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, held at Dakar in October 1999, both of which recognize the critical need

for support for African countries in addressing the supply-side constraints to their integration into the world economy,

"*Recognizing* the importance of industrialization as a key element in promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development in Africa as well as its role in the creation of a sound environment for the eradication of poverty through, *inter alia*, the promotion of competitiveness, productive employment, capacity-building and gender mainstreaming,

"*Also recognizing* the commendable efforts of African countries to engage their respective private sectors in policy dialogue at the highest levels and to improve further the capacity of the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises,

"*Further recognizing* the continuing need for the international community to extend technical and other support, including, *inter alia*, enhanced official development assistance, investment guarantees, debt-for-industrial-development swaps and enhanced market access to enable the continent to leverage domestic and international resources and investment to take advantage of the increasing role of the private sector,

"*Welcoming* the reform and revitalization of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as well as its new approach of providing comprehensive packages of integrated services, promoting sustainable industrial development in African countries, and its approach to field activities through joint programming with the United Nations resident coordinator system, and commending the United Nations Industrial Development Organization for initiating closer collaboration with the World Trade Organization, with the participation of their sovereign member States, with a view to, *inter alia*, contributing to efforts for enhancing market access for African industrial products,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002);

"2. *Reaffirms* the need for the African countries that have yet to do so to integrate the objectives of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization into their national plans and into the establishment of institutional capacity for monitoring programmes and related projects;

"3. *Calls upon* the international community, the African Development Bank and other relevant regional institutions to support the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the Plan of Action of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, including the outcome of the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa;

"4. *Invites* donor countries, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and United Nations funds and programmes, in accordance with their respective mandates, to support the efforts of the African countries to intensify and expand industrial cooperation among themselves;

"5. *Calls upon* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to strengthen its close working relationship with the World Trade Organization and other relevant multilateral institutions, with the participation of their sovereign member States, for the provision of technical assistance to African countries, particularly the least developed countries, to enhance their capacity to overcome technical barriers

to trade in industrial and other products, and for alleviating supply-side constraints and promoting industrial competitiveness within the context of the integrated framework initiative;

"6. *Requests* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa, in accordance with their respective mandates, and in coordination with the United Nations system, to support African countries in the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

6. At the 46th meeting, on 3 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Alexandru Niculescu (Romania), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa" (A/C.2/54/L.64), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.27.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.64 (see para. 17, draft resolution I).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.64, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.27 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.34 and A/C.2/54/L.70

9. At the 42nd meeting, on 18 November, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, Peru and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Business and development" (A/C.2/54/L.34). Subsequently, Australia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* its resolutions 52/209 of 18 December 1997 entitled 'Business and development' and 51/191 of 16 December 1996 entitled 'United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions',

"*Noting* the adoption on 17 June 1999 by the International Labour Conference at its eighty-seventh session of International Labour Organization Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour,

"*Welcoming* the efforts of the United Nations system to facilitate the active and constructive involvement of the private sector in the development process, and recognizing the importance of the global compact on human rights, labour, environment, proposed by the Secretary-General on 31 January 1999 at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland,

"*Emphasizing* that business and industry, including corporations engaged in international activities, can contribute substantially to a country's economic and social development and environmental protection, and are the primary generators of employment and prosperity,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of promoting privatization, competition, entrepreneurship and a supportive legal and fiscal framework for business in all countries to increase efficiency, economic growth and sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* the important role of small and medium-sized enterprises and microfinancing in supporting economic and social development,

"*Recognizing also* that a dynamic business sector results in economic growth, job creation, trade expansion and technology development,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled 'Business and development';

"2. *Encourages* multilateral institutions, Governments and the private sector, including corporations engaged in international activities, to strengthen partnerships to advance sustainable development through, *inter alia*, supporting the stable functioning of the international finance and trade system and investment flows;

"3. *Encourages* all employers to adopt principles of corporate social responsibility, to establish workplace codes of conduct and to uphold relevant health, safety and environmental standards;

"4. *Calls upon* public and private sector entities to ensure that workplaces are free from violence, racism and other forms of discrimination, forced labour and the worst forms of child labour;

"5. *Urges* Governments and international institutions to create an enabling environment for business and investment, including through sound macroeconomic and fiscal policies, the rule of law, sound judicial procedures, anti-corruption and bribery efforts, and transparent business practices that enhance efficiency, fairness and competitiveness in international commercial transactions;

"6. *Emphasizes* the importance of a positive international economic environment, through liberalization of trade and capital markets, in order to promote privatization and entrepreneurship;

"7. *Stresses* the importance of microfinance, including microcredit, to people living in poverty, in respect of allowing them to undertake the establishment of micro-enterprises, which in turn generate self-employment and contribute to the achieving of empowerment, particularly of women, and calls for the strengthening of institutions supportive of microfinancing, in particular microcredit;

"8. *Values* the promotion of entrepreneurship, including through the informal sector and micro-enterprises, in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and industries by various actors throughout civil society, and of privatization, competition and the simplification of administrative procedures;

"9. *Stresses* the importance of establishing adequate social safety nets to assist dislocated workers, and encourages investment in human resources by the maintaining of programmes devoted to health, education and job training;

"10. *Calls upon* the United Nations funds and programmes, in accordance with their mandates, to continue to strengthen support for the promotion of entrepreneurship and, in their work in implementing the present resolution, to give due consideration to the role of the private sector in development, taking into account the priorities set by each country, while ensuring a gender perspective;

"11. *Stresses* the need to continue to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening their capacity to encourage wider participation of the private sector;

"12. *Calls upon* agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as other relevant international organizations, to continue identifying ways to promote corporate responsibility in support of sustainable development;

"13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled 'Business and development', and requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies, to submit at that session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

10. At the 48th meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Alexandru Niculescu (Romania), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Business and development" (A/C.2/54/L.70), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.34.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.70 (see para. 17, draft resolution II).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.70, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.34 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.35 and A/C.2/54/L.68

13. At the 42nd meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Business and development: illegal transfer of funds from developing countries" (A/C.2/54/L.35), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/176 of 15 December 1998 on action against corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions,

"*Concerned* about the seriousness of problems posed by corruption, which may endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development,

"*Recognizing* the important role of the business community, in particular the private sector, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the agricultural, industrial and service sectors and the need to create an enabling environment for business in order to facilitate economic growth and development of developing countries, most especially African countries, which are in need of financing for development,

"*Mindful* of the very important role that the private sector can play in fostering economic growth and development and of the active involvement of the United Nations system in facilitating the constructive participation and orderly interaction

of the private sector in the development process by embracing universal principles and norms, such as honesty, transparency and accountability,

"1. *Calls* for further concerted international measures to combat corrupt practices and bribery in international transactions;

"2. *Condemns* corruption and bribery and the illegal transfer of funds of developing countries to foreign banks;

"3. *Requests* the international community to support the efforts of developing countries aimed at strengthening local institutional capacity for preventing corrupt practices, including illegal transfers of funds;

"4. *Calls* for international cooperation, including through the United Nations system, to devise ways and means of preventing further illegal transfers from developing countries and repatriating illegally transferred funds to developing countries, and calls upon all concerned countries and entities to cooperate in this regard;

"5. *Decides* to keep this matter under review and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to include in the report called for in its resolution 53/176, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, information on progress in the implementation of the present resolution and recommendations on the future course of action in this matter."

14. At the 47th meeting, on 7 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Alexandru Niculescu (Romania), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Prevention of corrupt practices and illegal transfer of funds" (A/C.2/54/L.68), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.35.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.68 (see para. 17, draft resolution III).

16. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.68, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.35 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

17. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,[1] the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,[2]

[1] Resolution S-18/3, annex.

[2] Resolution 45/199, annex.

the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[3] its resolutions 52/208 of 18 December 1997 and 53/177 of 15 December 1998, and Economic and Social Council decision 1999/270 of 28 July 1999 concerning the implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development,

Taking note of the Declaration on Africa's Industrialization,[4] adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-third ordinary session, held at Harare from 2 to 4 June 1997, the Plan of Action of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its thirteenth meeting, held at Accra in May 1997,[5] and the final communiqué of the first meeting of the Patrons Group of Heads of State and Government of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, adopted at Algiers on 13 July 1999,[6] and noting the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa, held at Dakar on 20 and 21 October 1999,

Taking note also of the statement of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade held at Algiers in September 1999, to the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, and resolution 2 (XIV) on the African common position on globalization, adopted by the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, held at Dakar in October 1999,[7] both of which recognize the critical need for support for African countries in addressing the supply-side constraints on their integration into the world economy,

Recognizing the importance of industrialization as a key element in promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development in Africa, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions, as well as the outcomes of major United Nations conferences, and also its role in facilitating efforts for the eradication of poverty through, *inter alia*, promotion of competitiveness, productive employment, capacity-building, gender mainstreaming, and effective and efficient management systems,

Recognizing also the commendable efforts of African countries to engage their respective private sectors in policy dialogue at the highest levels and to improve further the capacity of the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises,

Recognizing further the need for African countries to continue their efforts to create a climate favourable to private sector development and foreign direct investment and also the commitment of African countries to using both human and financial resources more efficiently in the process of industrialization, and emphasizing the continuing need for the mobilization of adequate resources through domestic initiatives and international support, *inter alia*, through enhanced official development assistance, investment guarantees, debt-for-industrial development swaps, as appropriate, and enhanced market access,

Welcoming the reform and revitalization of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, as well as its new approach of providing comprehensive packages of integrated services to promote sustainable industrial development in African countries and its approach to field activities through joint programming with the United Nations resident coordinator system in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, where appropriate, and commending the United Nations Industrial Development Organization for initiating closer collaboration with the World Trade Organization, with the participation

[3] Resolution 46/151, annex.

[4] See A/52/465, annex II, AHG/Decl.4 (XXXIII).

[5] See A/52/480, sect. IV.C.

[6] A/54/320, annex.

[7] See E/ECA/CAMI.14/99/L, annex II.

of their secretariats and the Member and observer States of the United Nations, with a view to, *inter alia*, contributing to efforts towards enhancing market access, as appropriate, for African industrial products,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002);[8]

2. *Reaffirms* the need for the African countries that have yet to do so to integrate the objectives of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, as appropriate, into their national plans for the establishment of institutional capacity for monitoring programmes and related projects;

3. *Invites* the international community, the African Development Bank and other relevant regional institutions to support the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the Plan of Action of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization,[5] including the outcome of the Conference on Industrial Partnerships and Investment in Africa;

4. *Appeals* to the international community, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and United Nations funds and programmes, in accordance with their respective mandates, to support the efforts of the African countries to intensify and expand industrial cooperation among themselves;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to strengthen its close working relationship with the World Trade Organization and other relevant multilateral institutions, with the participation of their secretariats and the Member and observer States of the United Nations, for the provision of technical assistance to African countries, particularly the least developed among them, so as to enhance their capacity to overcome technical barriers to trade in industrial and other products, including improving quality standards to alleviate supply-side constraints, and to promote industrial competitiveness within the context of the integrated framework initiative in order to enable them to integrate fully into the world economy;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa, in accordance with their respective mandates, and in coordination with the United Nations system, to support African countries in the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution II
Business and development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 52/209 of 18 December 1997 on business and development and 51/191 of 16 December 1996 on the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions,

Noting the adoption of relevant conventions by the International Labour Organization relating to labour,

[8] A/54/320.

Recalling the successful outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, including the commitments contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[9] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[10] and calling for the implementation of those commitments,

Noting the important efforts of the United Nations system to facilitate the active and constructive involvement of the private sector in the development process and the efforts of the Secretary-General to create partnerships with the private sector in this regard,

Recognizing the sovereign right of each State to decide on the development of its private and public sectors in accordance with its priorities,

Emphasizing that business and industry, including corporations engaged in international business activities, can contribute substantially to a country's economic and social development and environmental protection, and are important generators of employment and economic growth,

Reaffirming the importance, in the context of national development efforts, of promoting appropriate privatization, competition, entrepreneurship and a supportive legal and fiscal framework for business so as to increase efficiency, economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the important role of small and medium-sized enterprises and microfinancing in supporting economic and social development,

Recognizing also that a dynamic business sector is essential to economic growth, job creation, trade expansion and technology development,

Recognizing further the link among effective, accountable and transparent administration of the public sector, financial transparency in the private sector, investor confidence and the stability of financial systems,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

2. *Encourages* Governments, multilateral institutions and the private sector, including corporations engaged in international business activities, to strengthen partnerships so as to advance sustainable development through, *inter alia*, supporting the stable functioning of the international finance and trade system and investment flows, particularly in support of the development efforts of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition;

3. *Encourages* Governments to create an environment that enables businesses to conduct their activities in a humane, sustainable and socially responsible way;

4. *Urges* all Governments to create an enabling environment for business and investment, including through sound macroeconomic, fiscal and development policies, the rule of law, anti-corruption and anti-bribery efforts, and transparent business practices that promote efficiency, fairness and competitiveness in international commercial transactions, taking into account the needs of developing countries;

5. *Urges* the private sector, including corporations engaged in international business activities, to conduct orderly and fair business practices while adhering to and promoting the principles of honesty, transparency and accountability in international commercial

[9] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[10] Ibid., annex II.

[11] A/54/451.

transactions, with a view to contributing to efforts to create an enabling environment for business and investment;

6. *Requests* the international community, including the business community and relevant international bodies, to consider ways and means of promoting such principles and practices and encouraging multinational companies in their operations in all countries to respect those principles and practices;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of a supportive international economic environment, including investment and trade, for the promotion of entrepreneurship and privatization;

8. *Strongly stresses* the need for adequate resources, including the provision of new and additional resources from all sources, and transfer of technology on favourable terms, *inter alia*, on concessional and preferential terms as mutually agreed, to developing countries, particularly to Africa and the least developed countries, for developing appropriate infrastructure and business services to promote entrepreneurship;

9. *Recognizes* the special development priorities and concerns of developing countries and, in this regard, calls for international support for the realization of their development goals, *inter alia*, through the promotion of business and entrepreneurship;

10. *Stresses* the importance of microfinance, including microcredit, to people living in poverty, in allowing them to undertake the establishment of micro-enterprises, which in turn generate self-employment and contribute to their empowerment, particularly of women, and calls for the strengthening of institutions supportive of microfinancing, in particular microcredit;

11. *Values* the promotion of entrepreneurship, *inter alia*, through the informal sector and micro-enterprises, in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and industries by various actors throughout civil society, and of privatization, demonopolization and the simplification of administrative procedures;

12. *Stresses* the importance, in the context of establishing and maintaining adequate social safety nets, including assistance to workers, of encouraging investment in human resources through programmes devoted to health, education and job training, and recognizes that such efforts are an integral part of overall poverty reduction strategies;

13. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to provide a forum for intergovernmental discussions concerning issues related to private sector development and international flows of investment, with input from representatives of the private sector;

14. *Invites* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other relevant United Nations organs to further strengthen their activities, in particular those concerning Africa and the least developed countries, in the promotion of entrepreneurship development, especially with respect to small and medium-sized enterprises, and calls upon the international community to lend its support, where appropriate, to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in this regard;

15. *Calls upon* the United Nations funds and programmes, in accordance with their mandates, to continue to strengthen support for the promotion of entrepreneurship and, in their work in implementing the present resolution, to give due consideration to the role of the business sector in development, taking into account the priorities set by each country, while ensuring a gender perspective;

16. *Calls upon* the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and agreed work programmes, to continue to assist Member States,

at their request, in implementing national programmes to create an enabling environment for business, investment and development;

17. *Stresses* the need to continue to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, at their request, in strengthening their capacity to encourage wider participation of the private sector in their economies;

18. *Invites* relevant United Nations organizations, within their mandates and in consultation with Governments, to promote meaningful contributions by business, in both the public and private sectors, in support of economic growth and sustainable development;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Business and development", and requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations organizations, to submit at that session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III
Prevention of corrupt practices and illegal transfer of funds

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/176 of 15 December 1998 on action against corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions,

Concerned about the seriousness of problems posed by corruption, which may endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development,

Recognizing the importance of existing international and national laws for combating corruption in international commercial transactions,

Recognizing also the important role of the business community, in particular the private sector, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the agricultural, industrial and service sectors and the need to create an enabling environment for business in order to facilitate economic growth and development of developing countries, most especially African countries,

Mindful of the very important role that the private sector can play in fostering economic growth and development and of the active involvement of the United Nations system in facilitating the constructive participation and orderly interaction of the private sector in the development process by embracing universal principles and norms, such as honesty, transparency and accountability,

1. *Condemns* corruption, bribery, money-laundering and the illegal transfer of funds;

2. *Calls* for further international and national measures to combat corrupt practices and bribery in international transactions and for international cooperation in support of these measures;

3. *Also calls* for, while recognizing the importance of national measures, increased international cooperation, *inter alia*, through the United Nations system, in devising ways and means of preventing and addressing illegal transfers, as well as in repatriating illegally transferred funds to their countries of origin, and calls upon all countries and entities concerned to cooperate in this regard;

4. *Requests* the international community to support the efforts of all countries aimed at strengthening institutional capacity for preventing corruption, bribery, money-laundering and the illegal transfer of funds;

5. *Decides* to keep this matter under review and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and relevant bodies of the United Nations system, to include information on progress in the implementation of the present resolution and recommendations, *inter alia*, with regard to repatriating illegally transferred funds to their countries of origin, in the report called for in its resolution 53/176, to be submitted at its fifty-fifth session.